

References

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Lipara rufitarsis Loew (Dip.: Chloropidae) in Kent, with belated records of two other species of Chloropidae

There are three known British species of *Lipara*, namely *L. lucens* Meigen, *L. rufitarsis* Loew and *L. similis* Schiner and all form stem-galls on common reed *Phragmites australis* (Chvála, M., Doskoč, J., Mook, J. H. & Pokorný, V. 1974. The genus *Lipara* (Dipt., Chloropidae) systematics, morphology and ecology. *Tijdschrift voor Entomologie* 117: 1-25). *Lipara rufitarsis* is currently listed as Notable and *L. similis* as Red Data Book category 2 - Vulnerable (Falk, S. J. 1991. A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain, Part 1. Research and Survey in nature conservation 31: 1-142). J. E. Collin gave details of records for *L. rufitarsis* collected in Devon and at Chippenham Fen, Cambridgeshire (Collin, J. E. 1946. The British genera and species of Oscinellinae (Diptera, Chloropidae). *Trans. Roy. Ent. Soc.* 97: 117-148) whilst more recently it has been found in Berkshire, Cornwall, Dorset, Hampshire, Huntingdonshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Surrey and Warwickshire (John Ismay, *pers. comm.*).

During late winter and early spring 2000 MJ collected numerous *Lipara* galls as part of a study into the hymenopterous parasites associated with cecidogenous flies. Most were assumed to be of *L. lucens* but when adults began to emerge during the following June it was clear that both *L. lucens* and *L. rufitarsis* were present. The data are:

Ex gall 1392 – a collection of galls thought to be of *L. lucens* on *Phragmites* growing sparsely on the edge of saltmarsh, Egypt Bay, High Halstow, OS grid reference TQ 7778, 28.ii.2000. Em. *L. lucens* 5.vi, 8.vi and 12.vi.2000; *L. rufitarsis* 5.vi.2000. This collection also produced several specimens of *Polemochartus liparae* (Giraud) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) and two nymphs of *Conocephalus dorsalis* (Latreille) (Orthoptera: Conocephalidae), the latter presumably from eggs deposited in or about the galls.

Ex gall 1436 – a gall collected as *L. rufitarsis* on *Phragmites* growing in a ditch adjacent to path leading into a new reserve, Grove Ferry, Stodmarsh NNR, TR2362, 9.iv.2000. Em. *L. rufitarsis* 17.vi.2000.

Ex gall 1439 – a collection of galls thought to be of *L. lucens* on *Phragmites* growing along the edge of the Gravesend-Higham canal or in an adjacent ditch, Shorne, TQ 6973, 26.iv.2000. Em. *L. lucens* 13.vi.2000; *L. rufitarsis* 13.vi.2000.

Ex gall 1440 – a collection of pupae extracted from *L. rufitarsis* galls on *Phragmites* growing along the edge of the Gravesend-Higham canal or in an adjacent ditch, Shorne, TQ 6973, 26.iv.2000. Em. *L. rufitarsis* 15.vi.2000.

Ex gall 1441 – from a gall thought to be of *L. lucens* on *Phragmites* growing along the edge of the Gravesend-Higham canal or in an adjacent ditch, Shorne, TQ 6973, 26.iv.2000. Em. *L. rufitarsis* 4.vi.2000.

Ex gall 1442 – a collection of pupae extracted from galls on *Phragmites* growing along the edge of the Gravesend-Higham canal or in an adjacent ditch, Shorne, TQ 6973, 26.iv.2000. Em. *L. rufitarsis* 4.vi and 17.vi.2000.

Ex gall 1444 – ex pupa from a gall thought to be of *L. lucens* on *Phragmites* growing along the edge of the Gravesend-Higham canal or in an adjacent ditch, Shorne, TQ 6973, 26.iv.2000. Em. *L. rufitarsis* 17.vi.2000.

Ex gall 1447 – a collection of galls thought to be of *L. rufitarsis* on *Phragmites* growing along the edge of the Gravesend-Higham canal or in an adjacent ditch, Shorne, TQ 6973, 26.iv.2000. Em. *L. rufitarsis* 8.vi and 13.vi.2000.

On 25.vi.2000, LC attended a meeting of the Kent Field Club which included part of the Stour Valley Walk at Fordwich (TR 185597). At about 15.30 hours, sweeping was confined to a grassy strip bordering a substantial *Phragmites* bed and within which were a few young plants of the grass. It was here that a single male of *L. rufitarsis* was obtained.

MJ's experience of *L. lucens* and *L. rufitarsis* in Kent suggests that:

- Both species can occur in the same stand of *Phragmites*;
- Both species can occur in dry, poor growth and sparse stands;
- Typical galls of *L. rufitarsis* are generally much smaller than those of *L. lucens* and can be readily identified as such;
- *L. lucens* galls are always large cigar-shaped growths;
- Some *L. rufitarsis* galls may be larger and hence confused with *L. lucens*;
- In doubtful cases the larvae of the two species can be differentiated by the extent of sclerotisation on the anterior segments.

Of the eighteen British species of *Meromyza*, at least thirteen have now been recorded from Kent and details of some were given by Ismay (1981. British *Meromyza* (Dipt., Chloropidae), *Ent. mon. mag.* **116**: 177-197). *Meromyza hispanica* Fedoseeva, 1971 was added to the British List by Drake (1987. *Meromyza hispanica* Fedoseeva 1971 (Dipt., Chloropidae) new to Britain. *Ent. mon. mag.* **123**: 217-218) on the basis of a male and presumed female taken on 7.vii.1983 at Moorlinch on the Somerset Levels. The specimens were obtained from a herb-rich ditch, dominated by *Carex* and *Juncus* spp., on fen peat. On 11.vii.1987, LC obtained a single male, subsequently identified by Dr Ismay, from Holy Well Fen near Folkestone (TR 22273818). The site is a small area of peaty ground and dominated, at the time, by *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Carex* spp. and *Iris pseudacorus*.

Chloropsina varleyi Ismay, 1999 was described from a male taken by G. C. Varley from soil under an oak tree at Wytham Wood, Oxfordshire on 13.v.1949, with other data from Otmoor Ranges, Oxfordshire, Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire and Woodwalton Fen, Huntingdonshire (Ismay, J. W. 1999. The British and Irish genera of Chloropinae (Dipt., Chloropidae). *Ent. mon. mag.* **135**: 1-37). A further male, again identified by Ismay, was taken by LC at Burham Down (TQ 7462) on 10.vii.1994. It is not possible to give exact details of the area from which the specimen was swept although much of the area comprises chalk grassland and scrub.— LAURENCE CLEMONS, 14 St. John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE & MALCOLM JENNINGS, 206 Lower Higham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2NN.

A further note on the occurrence of *Tachystola acroxantha* (Meyr.) (Lep.: Oecophoridae) and additional Cornish records

Following our initial reports of the occurrence of *T. acroxantha* at Fleet in North Hampshire (*Ent. Rec.* **110**: 83; **111**: 20) data has been gathered on the flight periods of this moth. It does seem to be bivoltine, with two apparently non-overlapping flight periods. The spring brood occurs in much smaller numbers than the autumn one, which may reflect mortality over the winter months but also the frequency which the trap is inspected. The moths may be found sitting on the vanes of the Heath trap (6 Watt actinic tube) shortly after dusk, with only some entering the trap overnight. *T. acroxantha* is also attracted to house lights, particularly the fluorescent light from the utility room. The flight periods for the last four years are given below, with the data for 1997 being incomplete as the moth was only discovered in September of that year.

Year	Spring flight period			Autumn flight period		
	First date	Last date	Total moths	First date	Last date	Total moths
1997				26.ix	18.x	5
1998	4.v	4.v	1	20.ix	21.x	9
1999	13.vi	13.vi	1	11.ix	9.x	2
2000	5.v	15.v	7	9.ix	15.x	15

It is interesting to note the yearly variation (in such a small sample) in numbers trapped. A particularly good year was 2000, with a peak of five being obligingly present on National Moth Night (23 September). We suspect that *T. acroxantha* to be more widespread than is presently reported and that the long awaited Volume 4 of *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* (Harley Books) will provide an impetus for the recording of this striking Oecophorid. We are pleased to report that RP has discovered a new colony at Hatt, in Cornwall, since moving there in 1999 and has regularly trapped specimens at mercury vapour light. The species seems locally widespread as Bill Birkett has recently trapped it in some numbers at Callington (seven or eight miles north of Hatt).— ROB EDMUNDS, 32 Woodcote Green, Calthorpe Park, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8EY & RON PARFITT, 41 Vollards Lane, Hatt, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6PT.